

NOTES ON THE GENERA *OXYRHACHIS* GERMAR 1835, *PEDALION* BUCKTON 1903, *GONGRONEURA* JACOBI 1910 AND *NEGUS* JACOBI 1910
(HOMOPTERA, MEMBRACIDAE)

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I have recently had occasion to investigate the identity of *Oxyrhachis delalandei* Fairmaire and the relationship between this genus, and the genera *Pedalion* Buckton 1903, *Gongroneura* Jacobi 1910 and *Negus* Jacobi 1910. There has been considerable confusion in these genera and it is, therefore, necessary to publish the results of my investigations.

The genus *Oxyrhachis* was established by Germar (1835, *Rev. Ent. Silb.*, 3:232), type *Centrotus tarandus* F. (type fixation by Distant, 1907, *Faun. Brit. India*, 4:3, as *Oxyrhachis tarandus* F.). In 1864 *Ann. Soc. ent. Fr.*, 4:268) Fairmaire described his species *Oxyrhachis delalandei*.

In 1903, Buckton (*Monog. Membr.*: 252) established the genus *Pedalion* with five species namely *P. triste*; *P. ornatum*; *P. delalandei*(?) Fairm.; *P. fasciatum* and *P. punctipennis* (sic).

In 1910 Jacobi (*Kilimandjaro Meru Exped.*, *Homoptera*: 119) showed that the name *Pedalion* was preoccupied in Mollusca by *Pedalion* Dillwyn 1817 and renamed Buckton's genus *Gongroneura*. *Gongroneura* must, therefore, take the same type species as *Pedalion*. Jacobi fixed the type of *Gongroneura* and consequently of *Pedalion* as *Oxyrhachis delalandei* Fairmaire, but this species was included by Buckton in *Pedalion* only as a 'Species inquirenda' and Jacobi's type fixation is, therefore, invalid (*Int. Rules Nomencl.*, Art. 30, IIe). There is no real evidence that Buckton's *Pedalion delalandei* is identical with *Oxyrhachis delalandei* Fairm. Unfortunately Buckton's specimen of *P. delalandei* which should be in the Lounsbury collection in the South African Museum, Cape Town, cannot now be found. Similarly the type of *Oxyrhachis delalandei* Fairmaire with which I wanted to compare Buckton's species is also missing from the Paris Museum. A specimen sent by Dr. J. Carayon as the probable type turned out to be from Gabon (West Africa), whereas *O. delalandei* Fairm. was described from Cap Bon Spei (South Africa). I have, however, been able to examine, thanks to the courtesy of Dr. René Malaise of Stockholm, the specimen from Usambara which Jacobi wrongly identified as *Gongroneura delalandei* Fairmaire. This species was named *Gongroneura confusa* by Distant, but is actually synonymous with *G. fasciata* Buckt.

In 1916 (*Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.* (8) 18:23) Distant fixed the type of *Gongroneura* and thus of *Pedalion* also, as *Gongroneura fasciata* Buckton, that is *Pedalion fasciatum* Buckton. As this is one of the originally included species in *Pedalion* Buckton, Distant's type fixation is valid.

The *Oxyrhachis delalandei* auctt. of the Mediterranean Region, which is a true *Oxyrhachis* and was wrongly transferred to *Gongroneura* in Oshanin's Palaearctic Catalogue 1912, on the strength of Jacobi's statement, is thus left without a name. I therefore propose the name ***Oxyrhachis capeneri*** nom. nov. for this species. It was Mr. A. L. Capener of S. Africa who first called my attention to the confusion which existed between these genera.

A comparison of the types of *Pedalion triste* Buckton and *P. ornatum* Buckton with Jacobi's type of *Negus asper* Jacobi (type species of *Negus*) has shown that Buckton's two species belong to Jacobi's genus *Negus*.

Gongroneura brevicornis Jacobi (1910, *Kilimandjaro Meru Expedn.*, *Homoptera*: 120) is properly placed in Distant's genus *Kombazana* Distant (1908, *Insecta Transval.*: 217).

The following is a list of new combinations and synonymy established in this paper.

- Negus triste* (Buckton). Type in B.M.
Negus ornatum (Buckton). Type in B.M.
Gongroneura fasciata (Buckton). Type in B.M.
 = *delalandei* (Buckton nec Fairmaire). No specimen existant.
 = *punctipennis* (Buckton). Type missing.
 = *delalandei* Jacobi nec Fairmaire. Jacobi's specimen in Stockholm Museum.
 = *confusa* Distant.
Oxyrhachis capeneri Izzard.
 = *O. delalandei* Oshanin et auctt. nec Fairmaire.
Kombazana brevicornis (Jacobi).

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A new Camera for Close-up Work.—The new Dawe Portable Close-up camera (type 1715) has been designed to overcome the difficulties inherent in photography at short range and is claimed to be suitable for photographing dried insects. The print of a Longicorn beetle submitted to us for examination is, however, only of average quality and no doubt the apparatus would yield better results with Lepidoptera.

The camera incorporates a flash box in the shape of an 'L'. A flash bulb is inserted into the long leg of the 'L', the sole of which faces the subject. The box is used in conjunction with a standard British 35 mm. camera adapted by removing the lens. The lens is firmly mounted in the toe of the 'L'-shaped box and the body of the camera is mounted on a slide so that the distance between lens and body can be varied. This distance is determined by a bracket or 'applicator' which consists of a frame and mounting plate joined by an arm of suitable length. The frame is placed over the subject to be photographed, the area within the frame being recorded on the negative. The focal plane is automatically brought into the correct position for sharp focus when the applicator is mounted on the flash box.

The light from the flash bulb is reflected by the inside of the flash box towards a mirror set at 45° in front of the lens. This mirror reflects the light forward on the subject framed by the applicator, whence it is reflected through a suitably shaped hole in the mirror through the lens and on to the film. The use of flash bulbs has the advantage that the intense heat generated by most highly powered lamps is nearly eliminated. This prevents damage to delicate specimens and dispenses with the cumbersome equipment usually required for good illumination.

The size of the unit is only about four inches high, eight inches wide and six inches deep and its weight is five and a half pounds. The manufacturers, Dawe Instruments Ltd., Photographic Division, 83 Piccadilly, London, W.1, will be glad to give any further information required and to advise on special problems in close-up photography.—Eds.

Society

SOUTH LONDON ENTOMOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY: January 28th, 1953.—The Eighty-first Annual General Meeting was held in the rooms of the Royal Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W.1. The President, Mr. E. W. Classey, F.R.E.S., in the Chair. Membership had increased from 501 to 513. The financial position had improved because by strict economy the Society had met all the expenditure of the year out of income. After reviewing the work of the year the President read his Address on 'Separation Characters of some British Noctuid Moths.' The incoming President, Mr. F. Stanley-Smith, then took the Chair. New members: Messrs. J. A. Baker, B. D. Riordan and J. C. Rose. Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Dolton presented to the Society a copy of W. F. Kirby, 1889, *The Butterflies and Moths of Europe*. Exhibits: Mr. A. H. Sperring: (1) *Agrotis trux* Hb. (Lep., Caradrinidae), a series bred from eggs laid by a female taken in Dorset in September, 1952. The larvae were kept in a warm room and the moths emerged in December; (2) *Conistra vaccinii* L. (Lep., Caradrinidae), a specimen with dark central area and light brown submarginal band; (3) *Eupsilia transversa* Hufn. ab. *rufo-rufescens* Tutt; (4) *Angerona prunaria* L. (Lep., Selidosemidae), ab. *smartaria* Williams, cf. *Proc. S. Lond. ent. nat. Hist. Soc.* 1946-47, Plate XIII; (5) *Hydriomena furcata* Thnbg. (Lep., Hydriomenidae), a small form found in numbers at Crieff, Perthshire, August, 1949. Communications: *Phigalia pilosaria* Schiff. (Lep., Selidosemidae) had been noted recently both in England and in Scotland.—T. R. EAGLES, Editor, 32 Abbey Road, Enfield, Middlesex: January 30th, 1953.

SOUTH LONDON ENTOMOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY: February 11th, 1953. In the rooms of the Royal Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W.1. The President, Mr. F. Stanley-Smith, F.R.E.S., in the Chair. Exhibits: Mr. D. Leston, *Phloeophana longirostris* Spin. (Hem., Phloeidae), ♂, ♀ and nymph from Brazil. The colour, markings and broken outline combined to give protective resemblance to lichen. Mr. T. R. Eagles, fruiting specimens of the moss *Bryum capillare* Hedw. from Hertfordshire. Mr. N. G. Wykes read a paper, illustrated by the lantern, 'The Technique of Entomological Drawings in Water-colours.'—T. R. EAGLES, Editor, 32 Abbey Road, Enfield, Middlesex: February 14th, 1953.